

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 07361 270735Z

20

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 PRS-01 EB-03 L-02 AID-10

OMB-01 COME-00 DRC-01 TRSE-00 /070 W

----- 094629

R 270629Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6385

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 7361

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, LA

SUBJECT: LPF VIEWS ON FOREIGN EXCHANGE OPERATIONS FUND

REF: VIENTIANE 7232, PARA 8

1. ON OCTOBER 26 EMBOFF CALLED ON SOTH PHETRASY, CHIEF OF LPF DELEGATION TO JOINT COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT AGREEMENT, TO DISCUSS POW/MIA MATTERS, REPORTS ON WHICH HAVE BEEN TRANSMITTED SEPTELS. DURING CONVERSATION, SOTH EXPOUNDED AT LENGTH, AS HE OFTEN DOES, ON LPF DESIRE FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE IN POST-PGNU PERIOD. EMBOFF TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO INQUIRE ABOUT LPF VIEWPOINT TOWARD CONTINUED STABILIZATION ASSISTANCE (I.E. FELF) AFTER COALITION GOVERNMENT FORMED.

2. SOTH SAID LPF OFFICIALS HAVE NOT YET STUDIED FEOF, A QUESTION WHICH NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO ADDRESS. IT WAS LPF'S VIEW AT PRESENT TIME THAT "THIS
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FORM OF AID WAS NECESSARY UNTIL PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT

WAS UNDERWAY." LPF OBJECTED TO AID THAT "WENT INTO
POCKETS OF A FEW RICH PEOPLE IN VIENTIANE," AND WANTED
TYPE OF AID "WHICH CLEARLY BENEFITTED PEOPLE OF LAOS
IN BOTH ZONES."

3. SOTH'S REMARKS WERE NOT DELIVERED IN AN AUTHORITATIVE
WAY. IT WOULD APPEAR FROM HIS COMMENT THAT LPF OBJECTS
TO CERTAIN LUXURY ITEMS IMPORTED UNDER FEOF SUCH AS
CARS AND MOTORCYCLES, BUT NOT TO THE PRINCIPLE OF
THE FEOF MECHANISM DESIGNED TO MAINTAIN FINANCIAL AND
ECONOMIC EQUILIBRIUM IN LAOS. THEY TEND TO REINFORCE
OUR CONCLUSIONS REFTEL THAT LPF HAS NOT FORMULATED ANY
DIDACTIC IDEOLOGICAL OR POLICY OBJECTIONS TO CONTINUANCE
OF FEOF, ALTHOUGH IT MAY EVENTUALLY PRESS IN CABINET
MEETINGS, AFTER NEW GOVERNMENT FORMED FOR SOME REVISION
OF ITS PROCEDURES.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

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